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"Monster" Bass Chops!

No Pick, No Gush!

Compiled by
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Part One: Ascending Stems (hammer-ons)

Ex. 1 - "Two Finger" Combinations (1+2, 2+3, 3+4). Practice the following exercise as shown, moving up the neck without stopping and finish in the 12th position (12th). Start with your left-hand index and middle fingers exclusively, then repeat the exercise with middle and ring, and finally with ring and baby fingers.

Ex. 2 - "Three Finger" Combinations (1+2+3, 2+3+4). Practice this next exercise like you did the first, moving systematically up the fretboard. This time use a pair of left-hand 3-finger groups, starting with the index, middle, and ring, then a second time with the middle, ring, and baby fingers.

Ex. 3 - "Four Finger" Combination (1+2+3+4). In this final segment of ascending stems, use all four fingers of the left-hand: index, middle, ring, and baby. As before, begin as shown and move fret-by-fret to 12th position.

Notes: Keep the thumb behind the neck and touch the fretboard with your fingertips only. In all examples keep your fingers stretched and down until all notes have sounded in each beat. Alternate right-hand fingers.

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Francisco Tarrega was born in 1852, and spent his entire existence composing and re-inventing the technique of the guitar, quite a feat given the instrument's tremendous "lack" of popularity throughout the late 19th century. Almost blind from childhood, he rose from the most humbling of circumstances, learning piano from a blind pianist in the same rope factory that his father worked in. He later learned guitar from a blind guitarist. Though Francisco toiled in relative obscurity, he was obsessively devoted to the instrument, and supported himself during his adult life by teaching wealthy patrons and, of course, other noteworthy guitarists/teachers of that time period (Miguel Llobet, Emilio Pujol, etc).